THE DISSEMINATOR

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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3770 Kempt Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 4X8
(902) 424-2457; FAX (902) 424-0633

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Summertime, and the regions are busy!

Cate Bird of the DeWolfe Memorial Library in Liverpool represents the spirit of fun and welcome that our public libraries have, 'specially during the summer!

Special Issue on Public Relations Activities:

This special summer issue of The Disseminator focuses on library public relations activities. Many thanks to all of the contributors, who took time out from their hectic summer schedules to prepare their submissions.

2008-00056

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Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

Activities and Projects

AVRL was pleased to host Library Technician student, Alisa Thorne, in her work placement from the Kingstec Community College. Alisa had just recently become employed as a branch substitute, so this gave her the opportunity to become familiar with administration procedures at library headquarters, spending a few days working in each of the Branch Services, Reference, Technical Services, and Mobile Branch departments. She spent the remainder of her placement working with staff in the three branches for which she substitutes.

AVRL was fortunate to have had several bright and enthusiastic students working over the summer. Through two Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) grants, summer programming is taking place in Middleton and Port Williams branches where two students were hosting story and craft sessions centered around the Summer Reading Program theme, as well as tutorials in reading, and computer help sessions. Two summer Community Access Project (CAP) employees were called upon to host computer tutorials in 8 branch libraries.

Health information programs have been offered recently in the Kentville and Wolfville branches. Infotrac, the local Health Quest Centre and the Health Promotion Clearing House were featured at the Wolfville event. Thanks go to Mike Durkee for offering his expertise on the WHIP database at both events.

As you may have noted in recent news, the Western Valley Development Authority's (WVDA) Smart Community Project was one of 12 proposals chosen across the country. AVRL is a partner in this project and over the next few months/years, Digby and Annapolis Counties will see benefits such as: high-speed communication lines, email addresses assigned to each household, one hundred free-standing kiosks accessible by smart cards, technology recycling centres, etc. For information about the WVDA's activities, visit http://www.wvda.com.

courtesy of Kejimkujik National Park

One of the special projects hosted by the WVDA is the West Nova Eco Site which highlights the area's ecotourism opportunities in Annapolis and Digby counties. For example, there is information about freshwater fish such as brook trout and speckled trout.

Gates Open House at Berwick Public Library

Computer time was precious on June 9 as many Berwick Library users were anxious to get passwords for their

cards to enable them to place their own holds. Charlotte Janes and Wendy Trimper instructed each patron on the easy procedure. Mike Purcell, Michael Gillis and Shirley MacLeod of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library enjoyed seeing the children's enthusiasm for the Gates computers and software. Many thanks to Charlotte, who gave Nova Scotia Provincial Library staff a tour of the library and demonstration of the Express terminal.

Cape Breton Regional Library

Leugh Seo - Online Gaelic Catalog

The Cape Breton Regional Library and the University College of Cape Breton (UCCB) Library jointly announced a new initiative on July 10, 2000. The two institutions have partnered together to bring their Gaelic language records into one on-line bilingual catalog called Leugh Seo. The catalog, which can be seen at **www.cbrl.ns.ca/gaelic/leughseo.html** will give users basic information about each record and where it is located.

The rich Celtic culture of Cape Breton Island has become well known, both in Canada and internationally, through music and dance. At the heart of this cultural wealth is the Gaelic language. As a reflection of this culture, the Cape Breton Regional Library and UCCB Library have been adding Gaelic materials to their collections for many years. These are rich, diverse Gaelic collections of both adult and children's materials, many available for loan, both to local residents, and, through interlibrary loan, to persons outside Cape Breton.

Leugh Seo is the first project completed between the Cape Breton Regional Library and the UCCB Library under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). These two institutions have the two most significant library collections in Eastern Cape Breton Island. Through co-operation, they recognize they can provide a superior level of library service to members of the University College Community as well as the public. This agreement will help to cultivate stronger ties between the two libraries. They plan several future projects including using innovative technologies to allow residents to view all materials available in either library.

The Gaelic catalog was made possible through support from the Canadian Library Association and Heritage Canada's Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions.

Library Card Month in April

For the second year, the Cape Breton Regional Library, in partnership with the Cape Breton Post newspaper, had a very successful Library Card Month. During April, CBRL registered 806 adults and 392 children, for a total of 1198 library card registrations. Just over half of these were new user registrations. During Library Card Month, CBRL introduced a newly designed library card, which staff and users alike appreciated.

Colchester-East Hants Regional Library (CEHRL)

Nova Scotia Gates Library Initiative Launched

Nova Scotia's Gates Library Initiative was officially launched at the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library in Truro on June 28, 2000. Deputy Education Minister Dennis Cochrane and Colchester-East Hants Regional Library Board Chair Edith Patterson cut the ribbon to officially "open" the Gates Learning Center for Electronic Information with its public access computers and training labs provided by a grant by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Left to right: Elizabeth Armstrong, Acting Nova Scotia Provincial Librarian; Dennis Cochrane, Deputy Minister, Dept. of Education; Edith Patterson, Chair, CEHRL Board; Janet Pelley, Regional Library Director.

The computers in the Truro Gates Learning Center will get a lot of use, judging by the interest on the first day!

Provincial Librarian Elizabeth Armstrong, municipal leaders from Colchester, East Hants, Stewiacke, and Truro, and Regional Library Director Janet Pelley joined Mr. Cochrane and Miss Patterson in applauding the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for its generosity and its recognition of the work of public libraries in helping people from all walks of life to acquire the knowledge and skills they need to conduct their lives. During his remarks, Deputy Minister Cochrane said, "It's a very positive step not just for the Gates Foundation but for libraries in Nova Scotia." East Hants Warden, Lloyd Matheson said, "They chose well when they chose our libraries." Refreshments and a hands-on tour of the learning center computers were enjoyed by all who attended.

(Left to right) At the opening of the Gates Learning Center - Syliva MacKenzie, Automated Services Technician; Michael Gillis, Systems Administrator, Nova Scotia Provincial Library; Dennis Fitt, Trainer, Gates Learning Center; Lori MacKenzie, Automated and Technical Services Clerk. Sylvia, Dennis and Lori are CEHRL staff.

The Foundation granted $855,300 to Nova Scotia libraries to provide 114 public access computers in 56 of the province's public libraries. As well, 3 other regional training centers have been established in library branches in Yarmouth, Halifax and Sydney.

Fiftieth Birthday Festivities

The Colchester-East Hants Regional Library is 50 years young and celebrated throughout June! A large banner strung across Truro's main thoroughfare, Prince Street, and a giant "50" on the front of our Truro Branch/Headquarters announced the start of the festivities. Balloons, banners, flowers, cakes, cookies, and punch, not to mention creative art and marvelous displays of 1950s memorabilia, greeted well-wishers at the June open houses in our branches in Elmsdale, Stewiacke, Tatamagouche, and Truro.

The kickoff reception in Truro on June 4 saw the launch of the *Celebrating 50 Fund* to help match and surpass the successes of the past 50 years. Supporters can assign their donations to a specific branch to help with some immediate needs, or to an endowment fund, which is a new initiative to build a source of funding for future capital projects. The Tatamagouche reception on June 10 celebrated two milestones – the Library's 50th and Branch Assistant Glenn Hamilton's 25 years of service.

In July, the mobile library service marked its five decades on the road with open houses at two 50-year-old stops, one in Colchester County at Brule and one in East Hants at Gore. A gala in October will close the celebrations, but not the resolve to build on the accomplishments of the past half century.

Daphne Cragg, Administrator, Adult and Extension Services, answers some questions from a patron.

Summer Reading Program

Ships ahoy! *Sail away with Books*, this year's summer reading program in Nova Scotia's regional libraries was launched June 29. Name tags in the shape of a sailing vessel greeted participants, who settled down to hear a poignant sea story. Next up was mask-making, each creation using vibrant colours and based on a sea theme. Finally reading club members were invited to contribute to a large mural by placing lobsters, dolphins, whales, or starfish on the seascape created by our summer workers.

Happy Retirement!

On June 12 colleagues gathered at a local eatery to congratulate John Lawrence on his retirement after 22 years' dedicated service. Through rain, snow, heat, and cold, John drove our mobile library to all corners of Colchester and East Hants and with his working partners greeted and helped the rural borrowers. Liked by all, he'll be missed, but for John, the golf course beckons. We wish him well.

Cumberland Regional Library (CURL)

Activities and Projects

Renowned writer and rock musician Lesley Choyce visited Springhill on May 17 to perform an author reading. Junction Road Elementary school hosted the author who read from his works including the Hackmatack nominated book "Carrie's Crowd." Other recent library events included a party in May to celebrate the birthday of the popular cartoon character "Arthur" and staff member Dianna Lawless organized games and activities to entertain Amherst area children.

Summer students Lisa Jury and Thomas Crawshaw led a team of 30 Amherst children in the construction of the "Story Dory," a cardboard and paper maché vessel created to promote this summer's reading program.

"Pumpkin", the Amherst Library cat always finds a spot to relax in. The Amherst library's smallest patron often visits to find a cool place to sleep during the summer days or roams the branch meowing for attention. Pumpkin lives across the street from the library and is a frequent visitor.

A Teddy Bear's Picnic was held in Amherst on July 17. Cloudy skies did not dampen the spirits of the 30 enthusiastic children who attended. The Amherst branch became an indoor playground as kids enjoyed music by Julia Shatford and Heather Calhoune in addition to an assortment of treats donated by parents and staff. A Teddy Bear's Picnic cake was donated by the Atlantic Superstore.

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL)

Activities and Projects

Ms. Elaine Ingalls Hogg was a recent guest at the Port Hawkesbury Library and read from her most recent work, *Remembering Honey*, in which the author deals with the emotions linked to the death of a well-loved family pet. She writes in clear, simple language which the young child can understand and relate to. Having worked for many years at the Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society, Ms. Hogg brings a wealth of experience to her writing. She is also the author of *Grandma Loves You*, published by Strait Printing and Publishers.

Ms. Elaine Ingalls Hogg was a recent guest at the Port Hawkesbury Library where she entertained a young audience with readings from her works.

On June 27, the Sherbrooke Branch Library was the site of the official launch of the Gates computers in Guysborough County. Gates computers will now be available at the public libraries in Canso, Sherbrooke, Mulgrave and Guysborough. Open houses will be held at each branch throughout the months of July and August. At the Mulgrave Branch, a student worker is available to assist patrons and guide them through the new programs.

With the upcoming automated circulation in mind, at the annual staff workshop held on June 2, the discussion centered around client services and the new technologies. As well, ideas were shared for the summer reading program. Enthusiasm is high for this year's *Sail Away with Books* theme. Construction plans are already under way for several small "tall ships."

Ryan MacIvor was among the many youngsters enjoying themselves at the Hackmatack Award Ceremony held on Saturday May 20 at the Alderney Landing Theatre in Dartmouth. Ryan is a student at Centennial Elementary School and a member of the Port Hawkesbury Library.

The library's First Annual Book Sale on July 15 was a new addition to Mulgrave's Scotia Days celebrations, where Clifford the big red dog and a clown friend promoted the summer reading program and distributed goodies to the little ones. The $600 in proceeds from the sale will be used to buy new materials for the library's collection.

Clifford and library clown promoting the summer reading program during the Scotia Days Parade in Mulgrave.

Halifax Regional Library (HRL)

Gates Computer Training Centre Launch

On June 29, the Halifax Regional Library officially opened the Gates Computer Training Centre located at the Alderney Gate Public Library in Dartmouth with a celebration reflecting the theme *Narrowing the Digital Divide, Local Access/Global Resources.*

Laura Jantek, HRL's Virtual Library and Collections Manager, welcomed and introduced community partners, members of the public and library staff who gathered to launch the Gates Computer Training Centre and celebrate the new public access computers recently installed in several HRL locations. Remarks were provided by Judith Hare, Chief Executive Officer, Halifax Regional Library and Councillor John Cunningham, Halifax Regional Library Board.

Eight HRL branches now have additional public use computers through the $246,586 donation which includes workstations and an array of Microsoft products. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the equipment in the Training Centre consists of extensive software offering a variety of multimedia titles, basic office applications for word processing and spreadsheets as well as an Internet connection and printer.

Speaking during the opening ceremony, Margaret Bruhier, Employment Counselor from Women's Employment Outreach conveyed her gratitude to the HRL and expressed her enthusiasm over the Gates Computer Training Centre. Beginning this September, in partnership with HRL, Women's Employment Outreach (WEO) is offering a series of workshops covering basic computer skills for job searching.

Judith Hare, Chief Executive Officer, HRL (left); Councillor John Cunningham, HRL Board (right); Margaret Bruhier, Women's Employment Outreach (centre).

The HRL's Gates Computer Training Centre is officially opened by Women's Employment Outreach representative, Margaret Bruhier. Also shown: Laura Jantek, Virtual Library and Collections Manager, HRL; Judith Hare, CEO, HRL and Heather MacKenzie, Resource Manager of Preschool Services, HRL.

Putting the brand new Gates-sponsored computer to good use at the Captain William Spry Public Library. The Captain William Spry Public Library was joined by Alderney Gate, Cole Harbour, Dartmouth North, Halifax North, Sheet Harbour, Spring Garden Road and Thomas Raddall branches in receiving the new equipment.

Summer Reading Program Partnership

Imperial Oil Charitable Foundation Esso Kids Program and Halifax Regional Library were partners in presenting *Sail Away With Books Summer Reading Program 2000.* As the majestic tall ships cruised their way into Halifax Harbour this summer, HRL hoisted its own main sail and embarked on a great summer reading program adventure. This year's Sail Away With Books Summer Reading Program 2000 at the Halifax Regional Library soared to new heights with the assistance of a generous donation from the Imperial Oil Charitable Foundation.

The Foundation, committed to contributing to community programs with an emphasis on children and education, showed strong support this year for youth literacy and libraries in the Halifax area with its gift of $10,000 to the program.

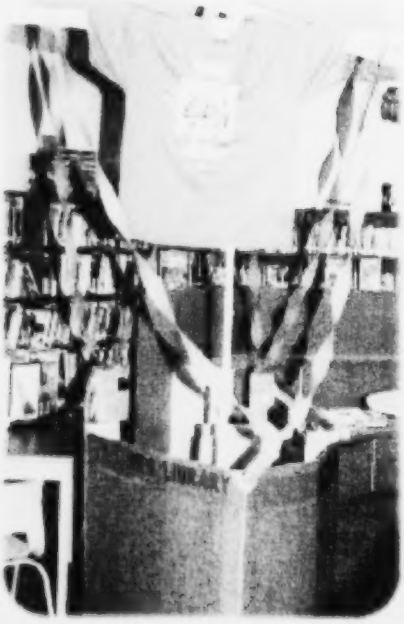
Funds provided by the grant greatly enhanced Halifax Regional Library's summer reading initiative allowing the library to reach more young readers through increased promotion, expanding the range of prizes offered, including a special Tall Ships tote bag filled with goodies for each branch, and sponsoring several performances of "Songs of the Sea" a family concert by celebrated musician Dan McKinnon.

Thanks to the Imperial Oil Foundation's contribution, the Library was able to broaden its promotional endeavours spreading the news of the Summer Reading Program 2000 to a wider audience. Thousands of people from all around Halifax Regional Municipality got the word on the Summer Reading Program. Ten Metro Transit buses hit the streets during the weeks of July and August carrying the message *Catch the Wave at the Halifax Regional Library Summer Reading Program.*

Located on the back of ten busy Metro Transit buses, this colourful bus board advertisement reached thousands of children and adults. The rural branches not serviced by Metro Transit received large outdoor signs to promote the program and promotional banners were provided for all locations.

South Shore Regional Library (SSRL)
Activities and Projects

Eighty years of library experience was cause for celebration at the annual staff service recognition reception. Board chair Alan Wilson (rear) presented certificates and gifts to library clerks Denton Conrad and Sherry Muise and librarians Frances Anderson and Cathy MacDonald.



Crystal Madill Corkum (not shown), a Library Assistant at Bridgewater Branch, turned marine architect to create the *SSR Library* and promote the Summer Reading Program. Benjamin and Jonathon O'Donnell (right) signed on for a tryout sail when they visited the branch with their mom Tracy.

In late June Liverpool relived its privateer history and the streets come alive with residents and visitors alike in period attire of the 1780s. This year Cate Bird of the Liverpool Library entered into the spirit greeting visitors in her period costume. Cate may have looked as if she belonged in the 1700s but she still enjoys the automated realities of the 21st century.

Chief Life Line took a few minutes away from his busy schedule to drop by the library display for some light reading. The Chief and the South Shore Regional Library were at the Seniors Expo sponsored by Michelin's Health and Safety Committee mid-June in Bridgewater.

Joey Montgomery of Liverpool turned six on July 24 and the following day he collected the grand prize in the South Shore Regional Library's Summer Reading Program. Joey and his family were special guests for a tour of the tall ship *Picton Castle* during tall ships festivities in Lunenburg. After lunch at the Grand Banker overlooking the Lunenburg harbour, the family went aboard Picton Castle for their tour with bosun Julie Gagne. The party met Captain Daniel Moreland who congratulated Joey on his luck and added his own encouragement about the importance of reading. Joey and his sister Jessica received *Picton Castle* t-shirts, courtesy of the captain. Joey's winning entry was drawn by SSRL Chief Librarian Janet Clark from more than 90 entries. In order to take advantage of the tall ships visit to Lunenburg, children were eligible for the draw once they had read a minimum of five books. Joey and Jessica were way ahead on that count. At prize time they had each read 20 books and were in the home stretch.

The *Picton Castle* is a 179 ft, three-masted, square-rigged barque built in 1928 in Yorkshire, England. The ship returned to Lunenburg after a round-the-world voyage last year and is preparing to set out again this November. Captain Moreland, an internationally recognized authority on square rig and traditional sailing ships, was named Sail Trainer of the Year in 1999 by the American Sail Training Association. The ship has a strong educational focus and virtual passengers can follow its adventures at www.picton-castle.com.

Joey Montgomery was the lucky winner in the Summer Reading Program at the South Shore Regional Library - he is shown behind the wheel of the *Picton Castle*.

Western Counties Regional Library (WCRL)

Adopt-A-Book .. . Over the Top Again!!

Western Counties Regional Library ran out of room on its bookmetre, used to record the progress of the recent Adopt-A-Book campaign, sponsored by CJLS radio station. The goal was to have 1000 books adopted and by closing day 1253 books were adopted. This number represents $24,189 in book purchases. The campaign, launched April 7, received tremendous support from library patrons, Friends of the Library groups, businesses, community groups and organizations in Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth counties.

The bookmetre, shown at right, took a leap after major donations were made from the Shelburne County Chapter of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union. The Pubnico branch received support from the estate of Clara and Edgar Hamilton.

Another memorial donation was made by the Tri-County District Labour Council in honour of Yarmouth branch staff member David Glover, who passed away on August 19, 1999. The Labour Council donated $2,750 to the fundraiser to purchase 118 large print books. George Nickerson, President of the Labour Council is shown here presenting the cheque to Regional Library Director Trudy Amirault.

New Faces at the Library this Summer

Based out of HQ, Krista MacDonald is working for the Yarmouth Public Library and Museum, continuing to update and complete the work on the Library archives which started last summer. She will also be working on promotions and publicity for the art collection. Her position was made possible through a grant from the Nova Scotia Employment Program for students.

As a regional Community Access Project site, WCRL has hired Khris Ross for twelve weeks. Khris graduated with honours from Ackerley Campus where he received his Computer Systems Advanced Diploma. He will be working in the Gates Computer Lab in Yarmouth. Public Internet access training will be an important part of Khris's work. Support for the position comes from the Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions program and from the Technology and Science Secretariat.

Friends of the Library Day

The second annual Friends of the Library Day is scheduled to take place at HQ on September 9. The guest speaker will be Val Marshall, former national president for Friends of the library. FOL day is a welcome opportunity to exchange ideas, meet Friends from other communities and enjoy the hospitality of Yarmouth.

Programs Galore for Summer Reading

Sixty five programs are being offered for the children's summer reading program this year. Crafts such as Ice Fishing, Making a Sailboat, Seashore in a Jar and Sounds of the Sea, are just a few examples from the sea theme for this year. The Shipwrecks of Nova Scotia programs being presented by Susie Sweeney at all ten branches are a highlight of the reading program. Susie is the author of *Disasters at Sea* and *The Sampson: The Titanic Mystery Ship*. The source of her stories for the shipwreck program is *Bluenose Ghosts*.

September is Library Card Month

The third annual Library Card Month, sponsored by Cameron Publications, will be taking place in September. The goal is to have a 5% increase in membership. Other supporters for Library Card Month are CJLS radio station and Tusket Sales and Service.

Gates Computer Lab Opens in Fall

The library's regional computer training center, the Gates Computer Lab will officially open on Monday, September 25. The training center is one of four in the province, the others being located in Sydney, Truro and Halifax, made possible through funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Six WCRL branch libraries have also benefited from the Foundation with new computers and software.

Automation trainer Verna DeViller is shown here training staff members in preparation for the opening.

New CAP site Opening

A new bilingual CAP site was officially opened at the Pubnico Library on July 5. This brings to seven the number of CAP sites across the region. An application made to the Nova Scotia Technology & Science Secretariat & Industry Canada for a CAP site for the Clare Library branch in Meteghan has recently been approved. With these two new additions, eight of the ten branches will be CAP sites.

Renowned Genealogist Visits Digby

Dr. Terry Punch, resident genealogist for the CBC Radio Maritime Network Phone-In, was in Digby on June 20 and 21 as a guest of the Admiral Digby Library and Historical Society. He addressed the Historical Society with a talk on *Bears, Bigamy and Burials: Our Ancestors at Home Before 1900.* He later spoke to a capacity crowd at the Isaiah W. Wilson Memorial Library during a Meet & Greet, fielding numerous questions on local history and the origins of surnames.

Terry Punch speaks about local history to an enthusiastic audience.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES (SLIS)

While our recent contributions have focused quite broadly on a variety of SLIS activities, for the next few columns we'll highlight particular successes and projects. This month, the School is very pleased to report that its Director, Dr. Bertrum MacDonald, was recently awarded the Marie Tremaine Medal of The Biographical Society of Canada.

The award was presented at the annual conference of the Society in Edmonton in June. This award recognizes Dr. MacDonald's research over the past twenty years into the bibliography of Canadian science and technology, and the history of print culture. His most recent successes include his new role as Editor of Electronic Resources in the interdisciplinary 5-year project titled "A History of the Book in Canada/Histoire du livre et de l'imprimé au Canada," funded by a 2.3 million dollar grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. An official announcement of the project may be found at: **http://prod.library.utoronto.ca/hbic/announc.htm**. Congratulations Dr. MacDonald!

SLIS welcomes questions about these or any other SLIS activities and programs. Contact the Director, Bertrum

MacDonald, at: macdonal@is.dal.ca, (902) 494-2472. And please visit the web site at: **http://www.mgmt.dal.ca/slis.**

NEWS FROM NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY

Nova Scotia's Summer Reading Program Update

The Summer Reading Program 2000, **Sail Away with Books/Cap sur La Lecture**, had its official "Kick Off" the week of June 26. The Nova Scotia Provincial Library joined forces with the Halifax Regional Library on June 28 by sponsoring a children's tour aboard one of the Tall Ships, the *Concordia*, to promote the start of the program. Heather MacKenzie, Resource Manager of Preschool Services, Halifax Regional Library, brought some young readers to tour the ship with Nigel McCarthy, Shipboard Director and academic instructor.

The *Concordia* hosts **Class Afloat**, a co-educational academic program which offers a full year of study at the grade 11 and 12 level, and junior college level.

Adults Nigel McCarthy, Shipboard Director and Sandy Bond look after an eager bunch of young mateys on the *Concordia*!

Nigel showing knots to a small group of children: left to right - Michael Sanford, Daniel Trainor-McKinnon, Jonathon Senman, Josh Senman, Robert Baxter (behind Jonathon) and Heather Chaisson.

Technical Services Training Summer Update

Several regional library members participated in technical training sessions with Nova Scotia Provincial Library staff Michael Purcell and Shirley MacLeod during the hot summer months: Cape Breton Regional Library entered Collection Exchange; Eastern Counties Regional Library and Colchester-East Hants Regional Library started the Acquisitions module. Cumberland Regional Library did double duty with preparing for Collection Exchange and Circulation.

Staffing Notes

Carole Compton-Smith, Coordinator of Technical Services, and previously Coordinator of User Services will leave Provincial Library September 1 to assume the position of Director of Learning Resources at Douglas College in New Westminster, BC. Carole has contributed a great deal to the Provincial Library over the past several years. We wish her well in her new career.

Merideth Fletcher, Cataloguer, who has been on leave of absence working as a music cataloguer at the National Library of Canada, has resigned her position at the Provincial Library. She will continue her work with the National Library on a permanent basis (see *Where are they Now?* Column below).

HOT TIPS & UPDATES

Canadian National Institute for the Blind

CNIB Library staff from Toronto visited Nova Scotia on June 13 as part of a cross-country promotion of their services. Staff from the regional libraries, NSCC, the regional CNIB office, and local university libraries attended the half day session. The Visunet Canada Partners Program is a subscription program that the CNIB Library offers for a fee to libraries to extend their services to their users who are unable to read print materials. A description of the Program can be found at **http://www.cnib.ca/library/visunet/partners.htm**. Partnerships have been formed by CNIB with libraries in various parts of the country. The Alberta Library, for example, has signed a partnership agreement on behalf of their members.

In the afternoon, regional library staff and Provincial Library staff met to discuss the future of talking book services in the province following the decentralization of the Provincial Library's talking book service. The collection of talking books currently housed at the Provincial Library will be distributed among the regional libraries. A partnership agreement with the CNIB Library will be pursued as a useful addition to current services. A committee was formed to look at potential resource sharing and coordination of activities. For more information, please contact Michael Colborne, colbormb@gov.ns.ca.

Canadian Library Association (CLA) Conference

Reading the past: writing the future was the theme of the 55th annual conference of the Canadian Library Association, held in Edmonton June 21-25. One of the major themes of the conference was the celebration of reading. Evan Solomon spoke passionately of the relevance of reading. Alvin Schrader and Margaret Mackey emphasized the importance of librarians' involvement in research on reading.

One conference highlight was a half day session by Ginnie Cooper, of the Multnomah County Library in Oregon, titled **Libraries, technology, and the future: how to talk to the public about their libraries**. Using research from the Benton Foundation, Ms. Cooper spoke eloquently about the relationship between public libraries and their users. She considers "telling the library's story" to be the librarians' most important task. In her view, "the library's biggest resource is the feelings people have about the library." The Provincial Library has ordered a copy of the tape of this session, which is recommended to anyone with an interest in this topic.

One interesting panel discussion included Wendy Newman, Brantford Public Library, speaking on CLA's revised public internet access policy, and Dr. John Snow, a library board member in Newfoundland, where all public libraries have installed internet filters.

CLA has recently set up a commission, chaired by Alan MacDonald, to look at the future of the Association, as well as its relationships with provincial and regional associations. Members and non-members will be asked to participate in focus groups and surveys. Vicki Whitmell, Executive Director of CLA, will be speaking at the NSLA conference in October on this issue. The 2001 CLA conference will be held in Winnipeg, and the 2002 conference will be back in Halifax.

50 Plus Expo

For the fourth consecutive year, the Nova Scotia Provincial Library staffed a booth representing the Nova Scotia Regional Public Libraries at this year's revamped Seniors' Expo, now known as the 50 Plus Expo. The theme of this year's show was "Leisure, Lifestyle and Living" and was geared especially "to entertain, educate and inform those of the Baby Boomer era and beyond." The Expo took place July 14 - July 15 at the World Trade and Convention Centre.

Over the past number of years, the Nova Scotia Regional Public Libraries' booth has attracted approximately 600-700 visits over the two day show. This event gives libraries throughout Nova Scotia the opportunity to promote their various services and in particular the services of special interest to those over 50. This is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of the public library to the largest growing segment of our population, those 50 and over.

Halifax Library Association AGM

The Halifax Library Association wound up a successful year with the Annual General Meeting held on June 1st. Those who attended munched on appetizers catered by Scanway as Janice Fiander handed the gavel to incoming President Sara Brodie. The other members of the 2000-2001 executive are:

Janice Fiander - Past President
Marlene Moritimer- Secretary
Lynn Somers - Treasurer
Shirley MacLeod & Debbie Costelo - Members at Large
Anjali Vohra - Membership

The Vice-President position is still open. If you are interested in this position or have questions about joining HLA, e-mail Anjali Vohra at vohraa@gov.ns.ca or call 424-6059.

Word on the Street

The Nova Scotia Provincial Library will host a booth at Word on the Street, September 24, from 11a.m. to 6 p.m. Nova Scotia Regional Public Libraries, the Summer Reading Program (SRP), and the Hackmatack Children's Choice Award will be represented. Visitors will be invited to fill in a ballot to enter a draw for a basket filled with books nominated for the Hackmatack Award, along with a couple of SRP shirts. SRP t-shirts, sweatshirts, mouse pads and posters will be available for sale. Be part of this national event to celebrate reading and writing by volunteering to staff this booth! Please contact Arlene Watts at 424-4547 or email wattsam@gov.ns.ca. For more information about all the activities and booths planned for this event, call (902) 423-7399 or visit www.canada.com/wordonthestreet.

Staffing the WOTS '99 booth from left to right: Arlene Watts, Summer Reading Program Coordinator; Monika Sormova, Hackmatack Award Coordinator; Bernadette Kennedy, Project Manager, Access to Nova Scotia Library Holdings.

Wouldn't it be loverly?

Lots of white sand under your feet, lots of sun bringing lots of heat, warm hands, warm face, warm feet. Yes indeed, NSLA's annual conference at the White Point Beach Resort will be loverly. And interesting too. A Sneak Preview about *Libraries: Beacons of Light,* the conference program, was distributed in early July. It promises a winning combination of thought-provoking workshops balanced by enough down time to reconnect with colleagues and bask in the beauty at White Point. The Conference runs October 27-29, 2000.

A pre-conference workshop is on at Nova Scotia Community College's (NSCC) Lunenburg Campus in Bridgewater. NSCC library staff will talk about their library services to l3 campuses and offer a tour of the new Learning Resource Centre in Bridgewater. Then it's off to White Point for a wine and cheese reception Friday evening. The business at hand, NSLA's annual general meeting, begins Saturday morning followed by National Librarian Roch Carrier's keynote address.

Beginning late Saturday morning and continuing Sunday, a smorgasbord of programs awaits participants - dealing with difficult clients, multicultural celebrations, book-mending, author readings, fund-raising, stress relief, young readers' favourites, rural services, Internet filters and a discussion on how library associations can work together. There's something for every interest.

For your sneak preview, check out the NSLA website at **www.library.ns.ca/nsla**. Or contact your hosts, the South Shore Regional Library at 543-2548 or in cyberspace at pgraham@rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca.

National Book Service Teacher-Librarian of the Year 2000

Holly Gunn, Teacher-Librarian at Sackville High School is the winner of the National Book Service Teacher-Librarian of the Year 2000. Holly is an educator with close to 30 years of experience in public and private schools. She is a Councillor with the Canadian School Library Association. Congratulations, Holly!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

This article continues our new series which will introduce some of the people who work or have worked in the Nova Scotia regional public library system over the years. If you would like to see someone in profile (who works or has worked in any capacity in the regional public library system), please give us your suggestions! Contact Gillian Webster at webstegs@gov.ns.ca or phone: 902-424-2478.

Deborah Taylor was Acting Coordinator of User Services from October 1996 to July 1997. Prior to 1996, she worked for a number of years with the former Halifax County Regional Library system. Deb and her husband Graham, moved to Peterborough, Ontario in 1998, where they have gone to the dogs, aka Sam and Nellie! Sam and Nellie are of Shepard-Husky descent and they employ Deb and Graham as cook, companion, chauffeur, and groundskeeper.

Deb chairs the Library Board's technology committee. The Peterborough Public Library recently received $62,000.00 in equipment for its two branches from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and $34,000.00 from Urban CAP (Community Access Project) to provide staff to improve public access to the Internet. Daughter, Charlotte Taylor serves as the dogs' personal trainer and in her spare time attends classes in cultural studies and anthropology at Trent University. Sam, Nellie, Deb, Charlotte and Graham can be reached at Deb's e-mail address, taylord@cgocable.net. All would love to hear from friends and colleagues.

Deb and Graham Taylor take a break from their husky duties! The dogs are generous employers and allow Graham time to serve as Academic Vice-President for Trent University, while Deb volunteers as President of the Board of Directors for The Art Gallery of Peterborough and as a trustee for the Peterborough Public Library.

Merideth Fletcher, formerly a cataloguer with the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, is now working with the Music Cataloguing Team of the National Library of Canada. She is enjoying her new job and is keeping busy by taking courses in French and German. She is also singing with the Ottawa Choral Society, which she enjoys tremendously, particularly as it has given her the opportunity to perform with the National Arts Centre Orchestra and its conductor Pinchas Zukerman.

Merideth is settling in well in Ottawa and she is glad to be closer to her parents who reside in Kingston, Ontario. However, she does miss Halifax tremendously, along with her friends and colleagues – particularly the fabulous bakers in Technical Services. Merideth would love to hear from friends, former classmates and colleagues, and may be reached at her e-mail address: merideth.fletcher@nlc-bnc.ca.

REFERENCE ON THE NET

Did You Know

Here are some more reference questions referred to the Provincial Library by the Regional Public Libraries. They were answered from resources found on the Internet.

Q. Would like a list of the subsidiaries of Shell Oil company.

A. This information can be found at the free version of EDGAR Online, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission database at http://www.freeedgar.com. Enter "Shell Oil" in the company name search box and this takes you to a page where you can click on "VIEW FILINGS" for this company and get a list of reports filed by Shell Oil. Click on the most recent annual report listed here and there will be a listing of the contents of the report on the left side of the screen. Scroll down until you come to "Subsidiaries of the Registrant" near the bottom of the list. This provides the requested information.

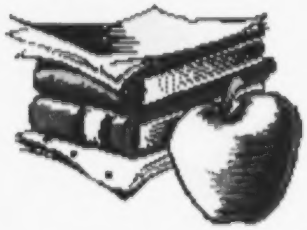
Q. What is Shell Oil's record on environmental violations?

A. These three free web sites are useful in answering this question:

FindLaw, a large online library of U. S. oriented legal resources at http://www.findlaw.com has different sections in the drop-down menu by the search box which can be used to find the text of legal cases which involved Shell Oil.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency Federal Register site at http://www.epa.gov/docs/fedrgstr has a search box where you can enter "shell oil" to locate full-text documents. At the search page of Pollution Locator Search Engine at http://www.scorecard.org/env-releases enter "shell oil" in the company search box to turn up chemical emissions data for American plant locations of this company.

LINKed



This Linked column was inspired by a couple of articles on Reader's Advisory Websites which appeared in the Acquisitions Librarian, no.23, 2000. The articles are "Reader's Advisory Web Sites" by Catherine A. Stevens and "An Overview of Readers' Advisory Service with Evaluations of Related Websites" by Kristine Schultz. The sites discussed here are useful for staff doing reader's advisory work or anyone who enjoys reading.

Reader's Robot at http://www.tnrdlib.bc.ca/rr.html is provided by the Thompson Nicola Regional District Library System, Kamloops, B.C. The site says that it contains 3,350 books in 21 genres. You fill in a checklist of 16 "appeal factors" and the Reader's Robot is supposed to recommend other books based on this. The Reader's Robot can be frustrating to use unless checklists are filled in such a way as to get a useful response. It may be easier to go into each genre and browse.

In the Science Fiction and Mystery genres you can "Have the Robot Recommend Books" based on those you check off as having enjoyed from lists provided. Summaries aren't available for all the books on the database. This site has a link to "Word of Mouth" at http://www.tnrdlib.bc.ca/sleepers.html which is the monthly reader's advisory service column in Library Journal from Jun 1, 1995 to present. The reviews here can be accessed by author or title as well as issue.

MIRAGe Readers' Advisory Links at http://www.prairienet.org/mirage/ra.html is provided by the Mid-Illinois Readers' Advisory Group. This is a plain looking site but it has a useful listing of links to Readers' Advisory sources on the internet. Sites are arranged by General Readers' Advisory, Bibliographies, Listservs, Usenet Groups, Genre Sites, Young Adult Resources, Book Reviews, Literary Awards, Author Sites, General Publisher & Other Commercial Sites and Books with Media Tie-ins.

BookBrowser at http://www.bookbrowser.com is an attractive, well-designed site developed by two librarians and maintained with the help of several reviewers. There is a fiction reading lists section with categories of "Series & Sequels", "If You Like..Try..", "Place & Time" and "Best of ..." Also has sections with book reviews, forthcoming titles and author information.

Genrefluent: Genre Fiction at http://www.genrefluent.com is produced by Diana Tixier Herald, the author of Genreflecting: A Guide to Reading Interests in Genre Fiction and Teen Genreflecting. Summaries of books can be accessed through an author index and a Table of Contents which is arranged by genre. There are links to other Genre Fiction and Teen Genre Fiction sites and to Library sites.

Booklist Editors' Choice at http://www.ala.org/booklist/005.html is part of the site of Booklist, the book review journal published by the American Library Association. The site has lists of the best books for 1995 to the current year. They are arranged in various categories of fiction and nonfiction for Adults and Young Adults and categories of Older Readers, Middle Readers and The Young under Books for Youth. "Top of the List" has the best book in each category for the year.

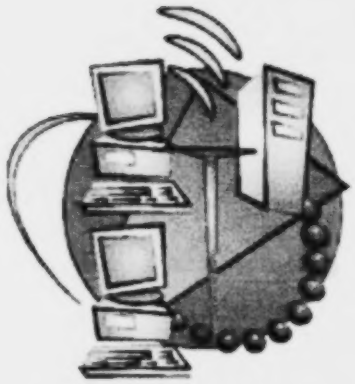
Chapter One at http://washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/style/books/chapterone.htm on the Washington Post's site has the fulltext of the first chapters of selected new books. In the "Search Our Stacks" section you can access first chapters from an archive of past listings. There are links to reviews in the Washington Post for all of these books.

Web sites which were featured in previous "Linked" columns are now arranged by subject category on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at http://www.library.ns.ca/provlib/brochure/refser.html. If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact Carol Morris at morrisc@gov.ns.ca.

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, two ALA books recently added to our professional collection are featured. These items can be borrowed through regular interlibrary loan channels. Please send requests via email to Dale MacMillan at inshpl@nshpl.library.ns.ca.

Dewey, Patrick - **101 computer projects for libraries**. Chicago: American Library Association, 2000. Call # Prof. 025 .00285 Dew]
This book is a collection of computer project ideas from around the library field. Project descriptions include contact name, hardware and software used; estimate of cost and web or print references when available. Projects come from academic and public libraries, school libraries, parish libraries and library associations. Resource lists in appendices facilitate finding additional information on software used in the projects and software vendors.



Virtually yours: models for managing electronic resources and services. Edited by Peggy Johnson and Bonnie MacEwan. Chicago: American Library Association, 1999. [Call # Prof. 025 .174 Joi]
"Virtually Yours" describes the best practices and current strategies for managing electronic resources from acquisitions through to patron use. In this book, key events from both academic and public libraries in collection development and acquisitions explain what works and what doesn't and why, when it comes to selecting, acquiring and circulating electronic resources and information.

Contributors:
Submitted by: Heidi Julien, Dalhousie School of Library and Information Studies
Dan Davis, Communications Nova Scotia
Merideth Fletcher, National Library of Canada
Shirley Robb, Communications Nova Scotia
Debbie Taylor, Peterborough Public Library Board